

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5-7, 15-17, 25, and 27-44 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 17, and 25 have been amended. Claims 29-44 have been added. Claims 4, 8-14, 18-24, and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated January 13, 2003, claim 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ito (U.S. Patent No. 4,321,748). It is submitted that claim 6 has been amended to include the recitation that the improvement includes a plastic thrust member and a separate and distinct plastic annular sleeve formed within the bore of the housing. It is submitted that Ito lacks any teaching of the housing acting as a bearing surface, and there is no discrete bearing surface injection molded into an area of the housing of Ito which would meet the limitation of the claims as amended. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 1-5, 16-17, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Giandinoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,848,477) in view of Oyafuso (U.S. Patent No. 5,144,738). The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious at the time that the invention was made to modify the motor/gear drive of Giandinoto et al. and provide it with the material and configuration disclosed by Oyafuso for the purpose of providing a self adjusting clearance for the shaft to have an end play during operation. It is submitted that claims 1, 17, and 25 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the claims have been amended to recite a plastic annular sleeve and a discrete plastic thrust member formed within the aperture of the housing. It is submitted that the combination of Giandinoto et al. in view of Oyafuso does not anticipate, teach, or suggest the structural configuration of a discrete plastic annular sleeve and a discrete plastic thrust member formed within a bore of the housing as more specifically recited in the amended claims.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of the amended claims is requested.

Claims 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Giandinoto et al. in view of Oyafuso and further in view of Ito

(U.S. Patent No. 4,321,748). The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious at the time that the invention was made to modify the motor/gear drive of Giandinoto et al. and Oyafuso and provide it with a shaft and chamber configuration disclosed by Ito for the purpose of facilitating the installation of the thrust member into the thrust member chamber. It is submitted that the addition of Ito to the combination of Giandinoto et al. and Oyafuso does not anticipate, teach or suggest the invention as recited in claims 15 and 18. In particular, none of the cited references, taken singularly or in any permissible combination teach a portion of the housing acting as a bearing surface where the discrete bearing surface is injection molded into the specified area of the housing in order to meet the requirements of the claims in the present application. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Giandinoto et al. in view of Oyafuso and further in view of Kikly (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,326). The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious at the time that the invention was made to modify the motor/gear drive of Giandinoto et al. and Oyafuso and provide it with the second end gate disclosed by Kikly for the purpose of allowing escape of air which is displaced by the injected resin. It is submitted that the addition of the Kikly reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest the separate and distinct plastic annular sleeve and discrete plastic thrust member as recited in claim 28 and claim 1 from which it ultimately depends. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

New claims 29-44 are submitted to direct the Examiner's attention to the feature of means for preventing rotation of the plastic annular sleeve with respect to the housing and/or wherein the rotation preventing means includes a gate formed integral with the plastic annular sleeve through the housing, and/or means for preventing rotation of the plastic thrust member with respect to the housing, and/or wherein the rotation preventing means includes a gate formed integral with the plastic thrust member through the housing. The Examiner's consideration of the new claims is requested.

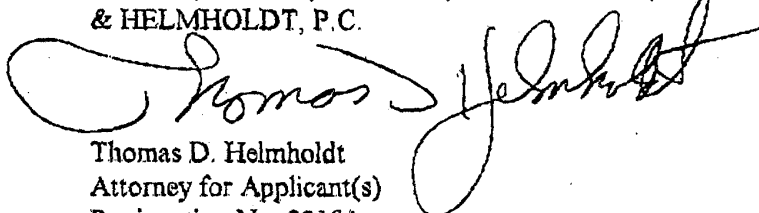
It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as

originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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